REMARKS

Claims 9, 17 and 23-24 were pending. By way of this response, claim 9 has been amended, and claims 17 and 23-24 have been canceled. Thus, claim 9 is presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in FIG. 3, as well as the substitute specification paragraphs [0004], and [0018] – [0023]. No new matter has been added.

Response to Rejections Under Section 112

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 24 under 35 USC §112 as being as being indefinite. Applicant has addressed the Section 112 issues as suggested by the Examiner and requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims under 35 USC 103

Claims 9, 17 and 23-24 are rejected under Section 103 over *Devine* (U.S. 2002/0095399) in view of *Nwabueze* (U.S. 6,611,839). Applicant traverses this rejection and requests allowance in view of the amendments and following remarks.

Claims 17 and 23-24 have been cancelled. The remaining Claim 9 as amended includes a number of features not disclosed, described, or suggested by the cited art alone or in combination.

Specifically, Claim 9, as amended, provides in relevant part:

> "...a central interface device simultaneously accessible by multiple users and in communication with each of the plurality of data sources, wherein the central interface device comprises mechanisms for simultaneously providing a uniform, central, **single point of access** to predetermined data sources of the plurality data sources, the central interface device comprising::
>
> (a) a restricted access administration device providing role-based access for each of the multiple users,

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wherein the restricted access administration device
**identifies a user and, based on a role of the user, enables
or restricts access to predetermined data sources ;**

       (b) a data acquisition device controlled by the
restricted access administration device and in
communication with each of the plurality of data sources,
the data acquisition device configured to **fetch data from
the predetermined data sources as determined by the
restricted access administration device** based on the role
of the user and to assemble the data for the user;

       (c) a polling device for **cyclically polling the
data from the predetermined data sources** based on a
production criterion defined by the user, wherein the
polling device

          (1) monitors and evaluates the data for
attainment of the production criterion,

          (2) generates a corresponding message
indicating to the user when the production criterion has
been attained, and

          (3) assembles and makes available to the
user the data relevant to attainment of the production
criterion when the user is next logged in to the system;
and

       (d) a visualization device having a plurality of
portal modules enabling data fetched from the plurality of
data sources to be viewed simultaneously in a visualization
window wherein data is visualized uniformly and
predetermined for the user based on the role of the user.."

As set forth in the amended claim, the central interface device provides a single point of
access and is composed of, in combination, (a) a restricted access administration device, (b) a
data acquisition device controlled by the restricted access administration device, (c) a polling
device, and (d) a visualization device. Each of these devices is configured to perform specific
functions of role-based access, acquisition, polling, and visualization in the express manner

specified by the claims. The restricted access administration device, for example, identifies users and enables or restricts access to predetermined data sources in a role-based manner. The data acquisition device is controlled by the restricted access administration device and only fetches data in accordance with this role-based functionality. Similarly, the visualization device provides for viewing the data in a manner predetermined for the user based on the role of the user. Moreover, the polling device provides the added functionality of background monitoring and data access based on user defined production criteria.

Devine, on the other hand, describes a network containing of a set of connected devices. The set of connected devices are organized into a plurality of clusters each having a top level connected device (TLCD), where the plurality of TLCDs are coupled together in a **ring** for propagating system administration information between the plurality of clusters. [0038] As such, *Devine* has **no "single point of access"** as required by the claim ("…a central interface device … for simultaneously providing a uniform, central, single point of access to predetermined data sources of the plurality data sources"). In fact, *Devine* is designed **not** to have a single point of access to provide for redundancy when a connected device (CD) becomes inoperative. [0020]. The system 1 is preferably administered by a **distributed** administrator, rather than a central administrator. [0058].

Moreover, the central interface device of the claim provides more than single point of access; the **central interface determines roles of users** by its restricted access device and acquires data by its data acquisition device controlled by the restricted access device. *Devine*, on the other hand, describes the CDs themselves which may store and grant access to files they maintain in memory to other CDs on the network. [0405]. Or a publisher may create services and control subscriptions to services. A publisher provides access to the data associated with its service. [0407]. Thus, there is no central interface determining roles of users as required by the claim which propagates throughout the system with respect to access, acquisition, polling and visualization. Moreover, the functionality of the data acquisition device is further controlled by the restricted access device, all within the central interface.

Further, the polling provided by the claims concerns cyclically polling the data from the predetermined data sources, again a feature linked to the original central interface that determined the role of the user. As such, it cannot be equated to general trigger events described in *Devine*.

Finally, it is important to note that the visualization device of the claim provides for viewing the data in a manner **predetermined for the user** based on the role of the user. Nothing in *Devine* describes or suggests such a feature.

Nwabueze fails to remedy any of the above-mentioned shortcomings of *Devine*. Nothing in *Nwabueze*'s display rules describes or suggests visualizations that are **predetermined for the user** based on the role of the user.

Based on at least the above-noted distinctions it is urged that the claims are fully distinguished over the cited art. Allowance of the application is requested.

Conclusion

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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